

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /023 W

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R 061645Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4263

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5415

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI; SCUL; PFOR, US;

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL - PRESENT STATUS

REF: (A) STATE 174412; (B) SANTIAGO 4695

1. LOCAL HOLYCROSS REP FATHER DONOSO TALKED WITH EMBOFF AUG 5 ON CURRENT STATUS OF ST. GEORGE'S NEGOTIATIONS. AS REPORTED REF B, PRIOR TO HIS TRIP TO UNITED STATES, DONOSO MET SEPARATELY WITH MIN ED TRONCOSO AND "MEDIATOR" JULIO PHILIPPI. RECAPITULATING CONVERSATIONS, DONOSO SAID HE HAD DETECTED A MUCH MORE FAVORABLE ATTITUDE ON PART OF MINISTER. PHILIPPI SAID HE HOPED PROBLEM WOULD BE RESOLVED "SOON;" HE URGED HOLY CROSS TO NAME A RECTOR WHO COULD ARRIVE IN NEAR FUTURE AND GRADUALLY ASSUME INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATION OF SCHOOL AS POWERS OF MILITARY INTERVENTOR CONCOMITANTLY DWINDLED. PHILIPPI FORSAW A RELATIVELY LENGTHY, LOW-KEY TRANSFER OF POWER WHICH COULD HOPEFULLY BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT ALARMING ANTI-HOLY CROSS PARENTS BUT WOULD STILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN CONTROL OF THE SCHOOL BY THE CONGREGATION.

2. DONOSO TOOK THESE PROPOSALS TO SOUTH BEND. RECEPTION BY FATHER HESBURGH, PROVINCIAL LEWERS, AND OTHER CONCERNED OFFICIALS WAS RESERVED BUT GENERALLY FAVORABLE. SOME DOUBT EXISTED WHETHER PHILIPPI'S PERSONAL COMMENTS WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE GOC ACTION. MAJOR STICKING POINT APPEARS TO BE SOUTH BEND'S DESIRE FOR FORMAL SETTLEMENT BEFORE RPT BEFORE NEW RECTOR IS FORMALLY NAMED. DONOSO COMMENTED THAT, HAVING TENTATIVELY APPOINTED NEW RECTORS TWICE PREVIOUSLY WHEN AGREEMENT SEEMED IN SIGHT, PROVINCIAL IS RELUCTANT TO DO SO AGAIN UNTIL CONCRETE AGREEMENT EXISTS. DONOSO WAS THINKING AS POSSIBILITY THAT PHILIPPI'S

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ENVISIONED "TRANSITION PERIOD" MIGHT BE INAUGURATED BY ASSIGNING

ONE OR TWO PRIESTS IMMEDIATELY TO ST. GEORGE'S. ANOTHER POTENTIAL STICKING POINT IS SOUTH BEND'S INSISTENCE ON REMOVAL OF VERDUGO AS MILITARY INTERVENTOR.

3. DONOSO REPORTED LAWYER JAMES ST. CLAIR HAS BEEN HIRED BY HOLY CROSS (HECHTMAN ARA/LA - STOUT TELCON, AUGUST 1). ST. CLAIR, POSSIBLY ACCOMPANIED BY FORD FOUNDATION EDUCATION EXPERT PETER FRANKEL, PLANS TRIP TO CHILE IN SEPTEMBER FOR "ONE LAST TRY" BEFORE CONGREGATION INITIATES LEGAL ACTION TO RECOVER SCHOOL. DONOSO COMMENTED THAT PHILIPPI PROBABLY WILL NOT BE PLEASED WITH INTERVENTION OF SUCH A HIGH-POWERED U.S. LAWYER. DONOSO CONCLUDED WITH OBSERVATION THAT THERE IS "STILL MUCH GROUND TO BE COVERED."

4. DONOSO PLANS TO INFORM PHILIPPI OF RESULTS OF HIS U.S. CONVERSATIONS AND WILL KEEP US INFORMED.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA05415
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750271-1185
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750877/aaaacqak.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 174412, 75 SANTIAGO 4695
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL - PRESENT STATUS
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, CI, US, ST GEORGE SCHOOL, HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006